

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST 12-27-21

Maps for various segments in the Coconino National Forest

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Coconino-National-Forest/>

Coconino National Forest—Strawberry Area. Flume Trail. Rating B and C. The Flume Trail is one of three trails that access Fossil Springs. Round trip is 7.4-miles. The elevation gain is 494 feet with an average grade of 12 degrees. From the trailhead follow the trail left of the trailhead signage. Fossil Creek is reached immediately. Will have to skip over a few rocks to cross the creek in normal runoff. The trail goes up the other side of the creek. Stay on the trail until you pass through a gate. All happens in 10 minutes from parking area. Up 360 feet ascent to the service road that runs parallel to the historic Flume. Only possible trail question arises when you come to the pipe in the ground where trail forks. Take trail to the left. Once on service road go to the right. Just before topping out on the service road there is a sign-in register. Coming around the first corner in the road the Flume comes into view. Great views from here up and down the canyon. You will be walking alongside the Flume for a while and then cross it. Stay off the Flume. You will be able to see inside the Flume when we cross it. We will continue hiking from here to Fossil Springs. A nice, level but long hike. The Springs pumps out 275 gallons/second at a constant temperature of 72 degrees. We will have lunch at or near the springs and then return to our vehicles. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is approximately 268 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CoconinoNationalForest/Fossil-Springs-Trail>

Directions to Lower Fossil Springs – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take I-10 East. Take Route 202 East. Turn left (north) on Gilbert Road. Turn right on Route 87. Stay on 87 and go through Payson to Strawberry. Turn left (west) on Route 708 (also known as Fossil Creek Road). The road is paved for 2.5 miles then becomes unpaved. Stay on FR 708 as it twists and turns down along a ridge. Fossil Springs Creek will be on your right as you get to the bottom. The parking area will be on the right near the bottom.

Coconino National Forest—Strawberry Area. Fossil Springs Trail. Rating B. The Fossil Springs Trail is one of three trails that access Fossil Springs. This is an 8 to 9-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1,500 feet. The average grade is 13%. The trail to the springs is wide and easy hiking because it was an old road. The beginning of the trail is desert but on the descent changes to tall sycamores, oak trees, fern grottos and wild blackberry bushes. At the bottom of the canyon the trail becomes a footpath along a stream. It is about 3.6 miles to Fossil Springs. The spring pumps out 275 gallons/second at a constant temperature of 72 degrees. We will have lunch at or near the springs and then return to our vehicles. Also, it is rattlesnake territory. For a longer hike continue on the trail past the springs and towards the Irving Power Plant. The footpath will lead to a roadway used to service the flume that provides water to the power plant. This roadway meanders alongside a wide valley above Fossil Creek and on to the power plant. It is about 5 miles from the springs. Be sure to take plenty of water, as the climb out is difficult. A restroom is at the trailhead. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 268 miles roundtrip.

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Directions to Upper Fossil Springs--(It is 134 miles this way or 150 miles if you take I-17 to AZ 280 to Rt 87.) Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 East. Take Route 202 East. Turn left (north) on Gilbert Road. Turn right on Route 87. Stay on 87 and go through Payson to Strawberry. Turn left (west) on Route 708 (also known as Fossil Creek Road). The road is paved for 2.5 miles then becomes unpaved. Stay on FR 708 another 2.5 miles, where you will see the signed road to the trailhead to your right.

Directions to Lower Fossil Springs--Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 East. Take Route 202 East. Turn left (north) on Gilbert Road. Turn right on Route 87. Stay on 87 and go through Payson to Strawberry. Turn left (west) on Route 708 (also known as Fossil Creek Road). The road is paved for 2.5 miles then becomes unpaved. Stay on FR 708 as it twists and turns down along a ridge.

Fossil Springs Creek will be on your right as you get to the bottom. The parking area will be on the right near the bottom.

Coconino National Forest—Strawberry Area--Pine Canyon Trail. Rating C, B. This is a 5.5 to 8.0 mile out and back hike with an elevation change of 970 feet. It is a steady uphill hike for the first 2.5 miles through a pine forest. At the top are interesting views of the valley below. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 260 miles roundtrip.

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Directions to Pine Canyon Trail – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East to Route 202 East exit onto Gilbert Road. Turn left on Gilbert Road to Route 87. Turn right on Route 87 to just south of Pine. Just before entering the town of Pine, you will see a HUGE sign indicating "Pine Trailhead" on the right.